



**Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor**

**Executive Order: 01-03
Inter-Departmental Coordinated Permitting**

An Executive Order requiring City departments to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of development permitting. The Executive Order directs City departments that are authorized to condition development permits to improve the timing and predictability of development to encourage economic recovery consistent with the recommendations of the Mayor's Economic Opportunity Task Force's recommendations on improving the City's Business climate and overall economic vitality. This order also directs departments to comply with RCW 36.70B.080, which requires permitting decisions to be completed within 120 days.

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Economic Opportunity Task Force recommended making City regulations and process much more user friendly and cost-effective and far less cumbersome and lengthy;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan established an ambitious growth target of accommodating over 146,000 new jobs within the city over the 20-year planning period;

WHEREAS, one goal contained within the City's Comprehensive Plan is for the City to "create a positive business climate, with high-quality customer service to business...";

WHEREAS, costs of delay in permitting can discourage economic recovery;

WHEREAS, it is the City of Seattle's policy to require development to mitigate many impacts by conditioning development permits;

WHEREAS, authority to issue development permits is currently decentralized in several different departments; and

WHEREAS, determining which development standards apply to a specific development proposal requires significant time.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREGORY J. NICKELS, Seattle Mayor, do order that the Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use implement the changes necessary to establish the following citywide permitting performance goals: 1) simple development permit applications reviewed within two working days; 2) complex development

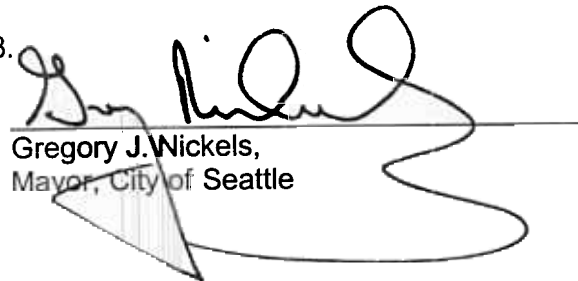
applications reviewed within six weeks; and 3) Master Use Permits, excluding projects requiring Environmental Impact Statements, will have decisions published within 120 days, including conditioning by all City Departments and Offices. This would be a Citywide goal, and would not have the effect of increasing any legal obligation of the City to applicants created by the 120-day limit in RCW 36.70B080.

FURTHERMORE, the Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use is to implement changes to the permitting system and eliminate multiple permits and transactions wherever possible administratively, or where necessary, propose ordinance changes that accomplish this objective.

FURTHERMORE, City Departments and Offices with permit conditioning authority are hereby ordered to develop and adopt written, predictable standards, and immediately implement mechanisms to expedite decision-making and condition setting to the above performance standards.

FURTHERMORE, an Inter-Departmental technology committee is to be convened to evaluate and approve a Strategic Technology Plan for Inter-Departmental Permitting and improved access to information. This committee is to report back to the Mayor on its findings by July 1, 2003.

Dated this 4 day of February, 2003.


Gregory J. Nickels,
Mayor, City of Seattle